



BARNARD CASTLE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Barney Buzz

Friday 24th March 2017

Issue Number: 861

Headmistress's News

On Monday we celebrated the first day of Spring, and needless to say, with the exception of today, the weather this week has been anything but Spring-like. I would like to congratulate our U11 Hockey Team for their fantastic performance on Tuesday at the Northern Hockey Finals in Leeds despite the terrible weather conditions. The girls finished in fourth place, a tremendous achievement for them.

Last night's Gala Concert in Big School was a lovely evening, celebrating some of our talented musicians. Eighty Prep School musicians performed in excellent fashion and produced a most enjoyable evening that was greatly enjoyed by all who attended. Well done to the children and to Dr Harrison and the music staff for putting on such a good show. Additionally, the eagerly awaited Pre-Prep Concert takes place next Wednesday 29th March and I hope that parents, family and friends will be able to come and join us in the Atkinson Hall at 2:30pm for a feast of musical entertainment.

Sunday's Barney Friends' Family Walk was a great success. Thank you to all who joined us for a pleasant afternoon stroll and I am most grateful to Barney Friends for organising the gathering.

Easter must be fast approaching as the Pre-Prep classrooms are adorned with wonderful mobile creations. If you do get the chance, please go and see them, there are some fantastic entries this year.

Our educational excursion to France has begun and the preppies have arrived safely in France. Thirty three Year 5 and 6 children, and accompanying staff, have embarked on a four day languages and cultural trip which begins with an afternoon visit to Nausicca. Please do follow their progress on social media using the tag, #preppiesinfrance and on the School website.

Next Friday, the last day of term, both Prep and Senior School pupils will be raising money for Brain Tumour Research by wearing a hat to School. If your child would like to take part, please could they bring £1 into School with them next Friday and wear a hat of their choice along with their full School uniform. By way of a reminder, parents will be aware that term finishes for the Easter holiday at **12noon** next Friday 31st March with the buses departing at 12:15pm. **Laura Turner**

Boarders' News

Miss White spent Saturday morning with the boarders and they baked up a storm in the Prep School kitchen. They created lots of lovely cup cakes to enjoy later on in the evening. In the afternoon, Mrs Robertson came armed with around 100 chocolate eggs and her daughter. We are lucky to have such great grounds with facilities we can use. Mrs Robertson and the boarders had fantastic fun with an egg hunt around Prep School (now we know why Caitlin, came along, who else would hide the eggs?). Sunday morning began for some with rugby training whilst Mrs Killeen took the rest of the boarders to Chapel. A lot of our boarders have out of school activities, one of which is George's Taekwondo. Congratulations to George Stubbs who took and passed his first Taekwondo exam. Later on we finished the afternoon off with a trip to Bamboozles Adventure World. **Mr Killeen**



Taekwondo success!

A Taekwondo grading exam took place on Sunday at Butterknowle Village Hall where the following children were promoted to yellow tag: Jessica Raper, George Stubbs, Benjamin Dixon, Charlotte Blenkiron, William Jackson-Ward and William Watson. Joe Arnold was promoted to blue belt. Very well done to you all! All your hard work, perseverance and dedication has really paid off! I was very proud of you. Keep training and we will work towards your next belt/tag.

Miss Lee, 5th Dan Taekwondo instructor



A Bug's Life!

In connection with this term's Science topic 'Living Things and their Habitats', Year 2 have been on a mini-beast hunt. This proved very successful, as surprisingly our School grounds are 'home' to an abundance of creatures. The children searched under stones, in long grass, under leaves, in walls and under logs, in fact anywhere that might be a good place for creatures to find shelter, food and protection. The bottom of the Reception class garden was the best place to look, as hidden at the bottom was a pile of logs. Under these we found a multitude of woodlice, white worms and even a huge millipede. Further searching revealed black beetles, spiders, slugs, flies, snails and a tiny ladybird. Each mini-beast was captured in a plastic pot and observed carefully under a magnifying glass before being returned to its habitat. It will be interesting to see if the range of mini-beasts differs during the Trinity Term as we would love to catch and observe flying insects such as butterflies, wasps and bees.



Legendary trip!

Our History work on the Ancient Greeks was further inspired by our Myths and Legends workshops at the Bowes Museum this week. After a little dressing up to re-enact the story of Perseus and Andromeda, and a close look at the painting depicting the dramatic rescue on Pegasus, the children took part in retelling the story of Hercules, looking at the bronze statues in the museum collection.

After lunch, they enjoyed learning about amphorae before creating their own using clay - their beautiful pots will be on display in the classroom 'museums' next week! Next we

headed to the large paintings gallery, and the children drew copies of their favourite exhibits, enjoying sharing their opinions and chatting about their work. The weather smiled on us long enough for a sunny play in the adventure playground, before we walked back to School. We would all like to thank the Bowes Museum staff for an excellent day; as one child said, "It was like a whole day of History lessons; a dream come true!".



Story Scribing!

Thank you to the Year 4 pupils who came to work with the Reception class this week.

The older pupils have been acting as scribes, writing the stories that the Reception pupils have been creating. When you are four or five years old it can be difficult to write quickly enough to record all of your amazing ideas.

Having a partner to work with was really helpful and the children formed some super stories as a result.



Sports News

Football v Aysgarth: U9, U8

On Monday all the Year 3 and 4 boys braved the cold weather for an away trip to Aysgarth. Five teams went out and performed admirably against a strong opposition although there were limited victories. It was great to see all the boys out playing and having the experience of another fixture. That finishes our season and we roll on to cricket and athletics next term. **Mr Wieling**

North of England Hockey Finals: U11

Tuesday morning saw an earlier start to the day than normal with the U11 hockey team making their way to the North of England Hockey Finals in Leeds. All the girls were extremely excited, if not a bit nervous. They had a super warm up and were ready to go. Their first match was against Kings Chester and, despite their best efforts, they finished 0-0. Next up was Hymers and with their first game nerves out of the way, the goals kept coming, securing a super 3-0 win. Their last group match was against Queens Chester and this was a frantic game. The girls had many shots on goal but the Queens' goalie was not letting anything through. Queens also battled hard and broke through to score two goals. The girls were not ready to give up, dug deep and snuck a goal back but ran out of time to equal the score. This meant we finished second in our group and we were up against the winners of the other group, RGS. With both teams eager to get into the final neither team were willing to give up easily. RGS were the winners this time in a match that could have gone either way. The girls were then given the option to take joint third place with Queens or play for third or fourth place. The team decided to play and gain their place by merit. Their last match was against Queens and this time Barney were constantly attacking, however, despite all their best efforts the goals would just not come. Queens gained their one breakthrough and managed to convert this into a goal, to take a 1-0 lead. The girls did not give up but time ran out. The team finished fourth, a fantastic achievement and one they should be very proud of; Mrs Seddon and I are extremely impressed with everything they have achieved this season. We wish them luck and encourage them to continue to play this fantastic sport. **Mrs Hairsine**



Rugby v Bronte House: U11

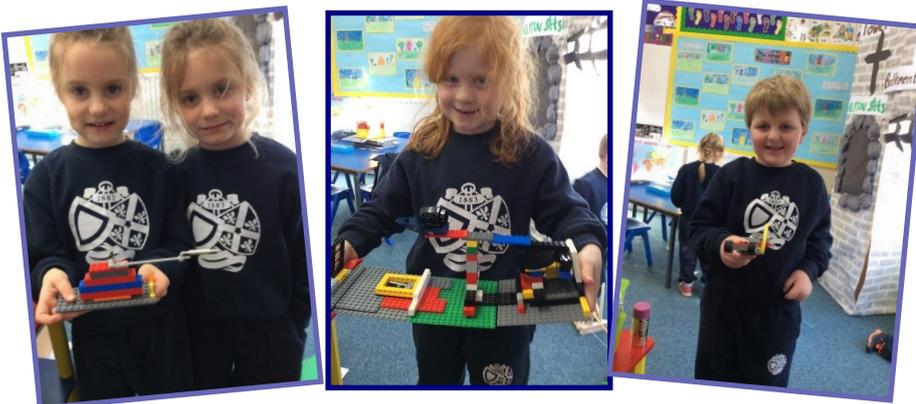
The U11s finished their Rugby season in atrocious conditions against a touring Bronte House side. This was the third time that we have played them and it would be fair to say they are the better side. They remain unbeaten this year. That said, we stuck to our guns and, in the second half especially, matched them both in attack and defence. The boys have been exemplary in their approach to not only playing but training and being keen to improve their Rugby skills. They can look forward to success in the future. **Mr Seddon**

Netball v Bronte House: U11

This is the second time we have hosted Bronte House School on the first leg of their Rugby/Netball tour and this was a fun way to wrap up a successful term. As a 'friendly' we were able to try out some different playing combinations and had an opportunity to test stamina in a forty minute match! This is useful preparation for Senior School where the girls will be playing longer, more competitive matches and they greatly enjoyed the challenge. It has been lovely seeing this team develop; they listen well, are keen to improve their skills and have boundless energy and enthusiasm. I hope they will continue to enjoy and play Netball in the years ahead. **Mrs Thompson**

Catapulting to success!

Year 1 are gearing up for their trip to Edinburgh Castle next week. They thoroughly enjoyed playing with a handmade trebuchet and catapult, courtesy of Bertie Swan's Grandad. The children also enjoyed trying to make their own catapults out of Lego.



Reminders!

Please be aware there are no in-house clubs next week. However, there will be some Year 5 & 6 play rehearsals (please check your child's homework diaries), Yoga, Ballet, Dance and Judo will all take place.

As a whole school, we are raising money for the Brain Tumour Research Charity on the last day of term, Friday 31st March. If your child would like to take part, please can they bring in £1 and wear a hat of their choice along with their full School uniform.

Please note School finishes at 12 noon on Friday with School buses departing at 12:15pm.

Magical Maths!

Following on from our success at Mowden Hall, myself and Mr Seddon had the privilege of taking a Year 4 and Year 5 team to Newcastle High on Friday for another day of fantastic Maths. The Year 4 team of Minnie Wilson, Polly Heintz, Sophie McGill and Joe Arnold spent the morning competing in their maths challenge, six rapid fire activities that blended mental maths and practical problem solving. Dice, dominos and tangrams all formed part of the challenge and after a frenetic two hours it was really pleasing to see Polly and Minnie finish in third place with Joe and Sophie not too far behind.

At the same time the Year 5 team of Charlie Appleyard, Daniel Raper, Talitha Hayward and Bea Dolby were braving the elements and tackling a fantastic forest schools maths trail. Featuring everything from orienteering and algebra to trigonometry and triangles (more on that in the puzzler), all this was covered as the pupils took part in a brilliant range of outdoor, practical tasks.

After lunch the teams swapped and with Year 5 happily in the warm, Year 4 tackled the course. The 'Tower of Hanoi' proved a highly popular station as did the outdoor deck of cards. The Year 5 team faced a mixture of tasks from the Year 4 challenge and the Year 6 one the day before with Daniel and Charlie just edging out Bea and Tally for bragging rights. It was fantastic for pupils to see maths in a more practical light and to put their competitive spirits to good use against other schools. All of the pupils responded brilliantly to the level of competition and the expectations placed upon them.

Buoyed by their success last week, the Year 6s have continued to push the limits of their bridge with the current record weighing in at 17.8 kgs!

Mr Ayres



Denbuilding Day

With the Easter holidays approaching, Barney Friends has an appeal for anyone clearing out sheds and garages or cutting down trees during the break - we can use your rubbish!

Last year's first Denbuilding Day was a huge success thanks to the enthusiasm of the families who took part and the vast amount of building materials that were donated. Planks of wood, pallets, plywood boards, tree branches, old tarpaulins and other junk was put to fantastic use by our creative builders, so we'd love to get the same again this year.

This year's Denbuilding Day is on Sunday 21st May. After the holidays we'll be setting up a collection point on the grass at the bottom of the School drive where materials can be dropped off, or you can bring them on the day.

Why not get a team together for your build? Build as a family or pit yourself against the children. The great thing is that all the children in Prep School benefit from the dens as they are left out for them to play with.

On the day itself, we will be selling bacon sandwiches and there'll be tea, coffee and juice. Families are also welcome to bring a picnic lunch. We kick off at 10.30am and will finish by 1pm.



App of the Week:

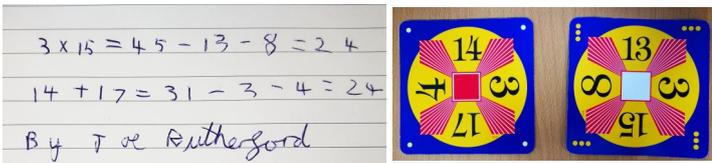


Learn French: Phrases & Words for Travel in France

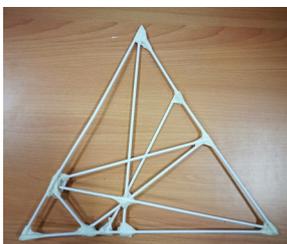
In honour of our intrepid French travellers, who departed last night, an app for helping you to refine your knowledge of the French language. Learn French is a collection of commonly used French phrases and vocabularies. Using this app, you can learn from the French speaking parrot. The parrot works together with you to practice your speaking and listening skills, whenever and wherever you are!

Maths Puzzler

Lots of entries to last week's '24' puzzlers, well done to Rhys James, Henry Turnbull, Benjamin French, Joe Rutherford and Toby Rutherford who all found solutions. Both of them can be solved a number of ways. I've included Joe's solution below.



This week's puzzler comes courtesy of Sophie McGill. One of the outdoor challenges during the Maths Day was to make as many triangles in a triangle as you could using art straws. Sophie's ingenious design used relatively few straws to create loads of triangles of all shapes and sizes. How many can you find? Remember the triangle might be made up of 3 or 4 segments so there are at least 10 to find!



Answers to me by next Wednesday please. Good luck.

Mr Ayres

sta@barneyschool.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

March

- Mon 27 Year 5 & 6 French trip returns, approx. 7:30pm
- Wed 29 Pre-Prep Concert, Atkinson Hall, 2:30pm
- Thurs 30 Year 1 Trip to Edinburgh
- Fri 31 Wear a Hat Day for Brain Tumour Charity
Please bring in £1 if you would like to take part. Wear full School uniform, as usual, but just add a hat of your choice!
End of Term Gathering for pupils, 9am
Term ends, 12noon
School buses depart, 12:15pm

Easter Courses

- 10th to 13th April PEPS Elite Sports Week: U11-U15
- 10th to 14th April PSG Football Camp: 8yrs to 17yrs
- 19th to 21st April PS Easter Sports Course: Y2-Y6

April

- Tues 25 Boarders return from 4pm
- Wed 26 Trinity Term begins
- Thurs 27 Prep School Group Photograph, 3pm
Year 6 Parents Evening, 4pm-7:30pm
- Fri 28 Year 5 & 6 Robinwood trip departs, 9:45am
Reception & Year 2 Parents Evening, 4pm-7:30pm
- Sun 30 Year 5 & 6 Robinwood trip returns, 4pm

Awards This Week:

Special Mention Certificates:

Peter Stevenson, Tom Staley, Bertie Swan, Alex Banner, Tilly Gray, William Jackson-Ward, Konrad Blake, Benjamin Pelly, Ben Arnold, Sophie Winnard, Ned Michelin, Benjamin French, Polly Heintz, Emily Coggrave, Isabelle Kerr, Oliver Dickinson, Bea Dolby, Talitha Hayward, Daniel Richardson, Isabelle Hawkins, Jack Edmunds, Fin McGuire, Katie Riddell, Poppy Barlow

Merit Certificates:

Tilly Gray, Harry Milbank, Violet Heintz, Hetty Barwick, Isla MacConachie, Freddie Wilks, Edwin Barwick, Matthew Collinson, Charles Appleyard, Kohana Armstrong, Lydia Dixon, Talitha Hayward, Aasta McGregor-Towers, Charlie Thompson, Georgina Chapman, Matilda Chapman, Bertie Swan, William Jackson-Ward, Sebastian Metcalf, Edward Baker, Alfie Franks, Isabelle Hawkins, Harry Metcalf, William Te Lintelo, Pippa Atherton, Jack Edmunds, Henry Turnbull, Poppy Barlow, Harry Maude, Aimee Willey

This week we would like to wish a very happy birthday to:

Konrad Blake
Niamh Hennessy
Lydia Dixon

Best wishes from everyone at Prep School!

Headmistress's Commendations:

Ella Turner, Pippa Atherton, Poppy Barlow, Johnny Burgess, Harry Maude, Aasta McGregor-Towers, Harry Metcalf, Daniel Newell, Molly Peart, Daniel Richardson, Katie Riddell, Jonny Ross-Mitchell, William Shield, Scarlet Sinclair, Hannah Stirling, Aimee Willey, Daisy Wilson

Well done!

A Pirate's Life For Me!

On Friday Year 3 set sail on a night of adventure as they jumped aboard the sleepover ship. We immersed ourselves in the first few chapters of Treasure Island; singing shanty songs and participating in a range of arts and crafts before catching a quick pirate biscuit and drink. We then set off again and took the 'island hopping' challenge before putting the final finishing touches to our pirate hats, swords and treasure boxes. Once the children were changed and had laid out their cosy beds, Mrs Michelin read the final chapters of our pirate adventure with a hot chocolate before the children settled to sleep (first attempt!). Getting to sleep was the biggest challenge by far for some, with a few night owls in our group, but as the night grew long they finally nodded off. An early morning rise (some as early as 6am), then we packed our things away and headed over to Senior School for an excellent breakfast which was definitely enjoyed by all. The last challenge was the treasure hunt, completed just in time to take their bounty home as well as a super pirate cake kindly made by the kitchen staff. Despite only a little sleep for some of our pirates, a great time was had by all. **Miss Strachan**



Glorious Gala Concert!

On Thursday 80 children dazzled a packed house with a range of styles from traditional folk music to classical to rock and pop, jazz and their own compositions. This year not only were our ears tantalised but visually the moves and grooves excited us too. From solos to ensembles, year groups to choirs we are very proud of them all, for their hard work, energy and excitement and their ongoing commitment. We very much look forward to seeing how they musically evolve in years to come! **Dr Harrison**

